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M.L.

21 JAN 2000

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Sinn *et al.*

Serial No.: UNASSIGNED

Group Art Unit: UNASSIGNED

Filed: HERewith

Examiner: UNASSIGNED

For: CONJUGATE FOR  
DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN  
HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY  
TISSUE

Attorney Docket No.:  
8484-077-999

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with Rule 111 of the Rules of Practice, please consider and enter the following amendments and remarks.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 11.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A conjugate [,] for distinguishing unhealthy tissue from healthy tissue comprising a fluorescent compound, a connector and a carrier, wherein the fluorescent compound and the carrier are [connected] joined via [an acidic ester or acidic amide bond or an enane bridge, the carrier is selected from the group consisting of serum albumin or a